

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Claim Status

As amended above, claims 96, 97, 99, 100, 104-108, 112, 113, 115, 116, 121-124, 127-129, 131, 133-139, 142-153, 155, 157, 168-171, and 180-183 are pending and under examination. All other claims have been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Pending claims 96, 97, 99, 100, 104-108, 112, 113, 115, 116, 121-124, 127-129, 131, 133-139, 142-153, 155, 157, 168-171, and 180-183 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. For the following reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected each of the claims as unclear. The Examiner contended that “[t]here are no active method steps of applying a coating substance and it is unclear if Applicant requires a coating step.” The Examiner then suggested that a step of applying a coating substance be included in the claimed invention.

The rejection of claims 127, 131, 148, 149, 152, 153, 155, and 157 is improper, because each of the claims does in fact recite the application of a coating substance. Regarding the other rejected claims, Applicants have added a coating step to each of the claims, thereby overcoming the rejection.

Therefore, the indefiniteness rejection of the pending claims has been overcome.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a)

Claims 110, 111, 114, 117-120, 125, 126, 132, 156, and 159 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Tuch* (U.S. Patent 5,679,400). Claims 94, 95, 98, 101, 102, 103, 109, 130, 140, 141, 154, 158, 159-163, 165-167, 172-175, and 177-179 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tuch*.

The claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103(a) have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejections moot.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If necessary, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

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Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza
Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Facsimile (415) 393-9887
Telephone (415) 954-0241
szhu@ssd.com

/Song Zhu, Reg. No. 44,420/

Song Zhu, Ph.D.
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,420